

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cooking appliance includes smooth cooking surface having at least one cooking zone, a base frame section, at least one gas burner assembly located between the smooth cooking surface and the base frame section, and a control unit. A wire filament coil, electrically interconnected to the control unit, is arranged adjacent to the gas burner assembly. The wire filament coil includes a plurality of distinct, independently controlled segments extending about a perimeter of the gas burner. When operated in a first mode, at least one segment of the wire filament coil is utilized as an ignition source for a gas flow directed from the gas burner assembly. When operated in a second mode, the gas flow is shut off and selected segments of the wire filament coil are activated to establish a low level heat setting for the cooking zone.